

SOUTH CAROLINA

Consumer Sentinel Complaint Statistics and Trends

January 1 - December 31, 2002

Total Number of Fraud and Identity Theft Complaints from South Carolina Consumers = 3,422



Fraud Complaints from South Carolina Consumers = 2,183

Top Fraud Complaint Categories for South Carolina Consumers

Rank	Top Categories	Complaints	Percentage ¹
1	Internet Auctions	487	22%
2	Advance-Fee Loans and Credit Protection/Repair	308	14%
3	Internet Services and Computer Complaints	226	10%
4	Shop-at-Home/Catalog Sales	186	9%
5	Prizes/Sweepstakes and Lotteries	143	7%

¹Percentages are based on the total number of fraud complaints from South Carolina consumers (2,183).

Amount Paid Reported by South Carolina Consumers

Total No. of Complaints	Total Amount Paid Reported	Total Complaints Reporting Amt Pd	Percentage of Complaints Reporting Amount Paid	Average Amount Paid ²
2,183	\$2,786,444	1,793	82%	\$1,554

²Average amount paid is based on the total number of fraud complaints where amount paid was reported by South Carolina consumers (1,793).

Top South Carolina Consumer Locations for Fraud Complaints

Consumer City	No. of Complaints
Columbia	216
Charleston	119
Greenville	114
Myrtle Beach	74
Spartanburg	67
Summerville	67



Identity Theft Complaints from South Carolina Victims = 1,239

Identity Theft Types Reported by South Carolina Victims

Rank	Identity Theft Type	No. of Victims	Percentage ¹
1	Credit Card Fraud	517	42%
2	Phone or Utilities Fraud	277	22%
3	Bank Fraud	227	18%
4	Loan Fraud	84	7%
5	Government Documents or Benefits Fraud	82	7%
6	Employment-Related Fraud	54	4%
	Other	200	16%
	Attempted Identity Theft	95	8%

¹Percentages are based on the 1,239 victims reporting from South Carolina. Percentages add to more than 100 because approximately 20% of victims from South Carolina reported experiencing more than one type of identity theft.

Top South Carolina Identity Theft Victim Locations

Victim City	No. of Victims
Columbia	136
Charleston	82
Greenville	77
Anderson	33
Summerville	33